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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/729,445

12/05/2003

Glenn Carlin

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1022

7590

06/15/2006

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, RAKESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/729,445	Applicant(s) CARLIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Rakesh Kumar	Art Unit 3654	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Application filed 12/05/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lockhart (U.S. Patent Number 4,817,818).

3. Referring to claims 1, 3, 8 and 14-17. Lockhart discloses a display dispenser (Figure 11) for disposing in an upside down orientation at least one container (90) having a body portion and a neck portion (Figure 9) wherein the neck portion is disposed below the body portion when the product is in the upside down orientation (Figure 7), the display device (Col. 3 line 21) comprising: an elongated member (cylindrical member; 112) defining a conduit extending between first (top end) and second (bottom end) ends for accommodating at least one container (90) in an upside down orientation such that the neck portion of the at least one container (90) faces the second (bottom end) end of the conduit; and a stop member (88) associated with the elongated member (112) and disposed beyond the conduit (Figure 7) and adjacent to

the second end for providing a barrier to thereby prevent a container from accidentally leaving the conduit.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockhart in as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ferro (U.S. Patent Number 4,781,307).

6. Referring to claim 2, Lockhart discloses all the claimed features of claim 2 but does not disclose a stop member spaced from the second end such that a portion of a container disposed at the second end is exposed.

Ferro disclose a stop member (34) positioned at the base of the conduit (12) wherein the stop member (34) is spaced from the second end (bottom end) such that a portion of a container (17) disposed at the second end is exposed (see visible portion of member 17 from outside looking into container through the cutout in Figure 7 and 8 ) between the second end and the stop member for grasping and being dispensed from the conduit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart and include a stop member disposed on the second end as taught by Ferro in addition, include a portion of the housing to be removed near the second end (as shown in Figure 7 Ferro) such that a portion of the container disposed within the housing is exposed from the outside thus making the container further visible to the consumer.

7. Claims 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockhart.

8. Referring to claim 4. Lockhart discloses all the claimed features of claim 4 but does not disclose the projection (106) defining an opening to accommodate the net portion of the container.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart and include and enlarged portion of the projection (106; Lockhart) such that the enlarged portion accommodates the neck portion of the container because it would eliminate the need of a specially designed bottle container.

9. Regarding claims 6 and 7, Lockhart discloses a display dispenser (Figure 11) wherein the stop member (88) further includes at least one brace member (102) coupled to the projection (106) and the elongated member (112).

10. Claim 5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockhart in as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Shelly (U.S. Patent Number 3,625,397).

11. Referring to claim 5, Lockhart discloses all the claimed features of claim 5 but does not disclose the neck portion to be pivoted out of the opening to dispense.

Shelly discloses a container dispenser (Figure 4) wherein the opening is open-ended for permitting the neck portion of a container (114) accommodated therein to be pivoted out of the opening in order to dispense the container from the conduit (see dispensing of the container in Figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart and include an opening, open-ended for permitting the neck portion of a container to be pivoted out of the opening in order to dispense the container from the conduit as disclosed by the teaching of Shelly, because removing the container from the housing would be made easier.

12. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockhart in view of Fuss (U.S. Patent Number 4,261,480).

13. Referring to claims 9-11. See above. Fuss discloses an article holder (Figure 1) wherein the elongated member (12) that is generally transparent. Fuss also discloses

in Figure 7 a housing of the dispenser comprising a flexible plastic material for folding the dispenser when the dispenser is not in use.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart to include a transparent elongated member as taught by Fuss because a transparent housing would provide better visibility of the products in the dispenser.

It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart to include a flexible housing as taught by Fuss because the flexible portion of the housing could be folded to reduce the storage size.

14. Claims 12 and 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockhart in view of Brewster (U.S. Patent Number 5,039,046).

15. Referring to claims 12 and 13. See above. Brewster discloses a bottle holder (Figure 1) wherein suction cups (20) are used as fasteners to mount the holder to an external mounting surface.

It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Lockhart to include suction cups as fasteners as taught by Brewster to provide the ability to mount to an external surface.

***Conclusion***

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rakesh Kumar whose telephone number is (517) 272-8314. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RK  
June 8, 2006

  
GENE O. CRAWFORD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER